

WYOMING BRUCELLOSIS COORDINATION TEAM

MAY 4, 2006

BEST WESTERN INN, LANDER, WYOMING

Frank Galey, Monte Olsen, John Hines, Levi Martin, Dave Roberts, Ken Mills, Brad Mead, Terry Pollard, John Etchepare, Terry Cleveland, Joel Bousman, Albert Sommers, Brent Larsen, Bret Combs, Jim Logan, Dwayne Oldham, Terry Kreeger, Bill Williams, Rob Hendry, Bill Lambert, Shawn Madden, Jamie Snow, Ben Brandes, Donal O'Toole.

Sign-up Sheet:

- Owen Henderson:	APHIS
- Kristy Wedemy:	Wyoming Livestock Round-up
- Glenn and Marriane Taylor:	Rancher
- Tim O'Neal:	WLSB
- Brodie Farquhar:	CST
- Lloyd Dorsey:	Greater Yellowstone Coalition
- Chris Colligan:	WGFD
- John Emmerich:	WGFD
- Scott Talbot:	WGFD
- Eric Keszler:	WGFD
- Bernard Holz:	WGFD
- John Henningsen:	WGFD
- Brandon Scurlock:	WGFD
- Ryan Clarke:	APHIS
- Bill Long:	WGFD
- Jim McGagna:	WSGA
- Lois Herbst:	WSGA
- Pam Buline:	Senator Thomas's Office
- Jim Mickleson:	BOA
- Mark Gocke:	WGFD
- Arnold Gertonson	APHIS

8:00 am – Dean Galey opens meeting

- Introductions: Commission members and visitors

Brad Mead: Teton County Brucellosis “situation”

- Glen Taylor's ranch 7/8 miles from feed grounds
- Run cattle on federal ground
- Canary in a coal mine = Brucellosis
- Mid-January, 2006, elk came across Slide Lake onto the Taylor Ranch
- Cooperation with Game and Fish, run elk off
- Jan. 28, started using cow feeders to discourage the elk
- Bill Long and Glen Taylor considered herding elk back across
- Permission sought from Forest Service, not received
- Ken Clark – livestock board – informed Glen Taylor his heard was quarantined

- Everyone there has elk; question as to what quantity of elk necessitates quarantine
- Public meeting – attended by Dr. Oldham – resolution drafted
- Tense discussions held on how to handle the situation
- Suggestion that Taylor should bleed their cows this spring – 30 head
- Taylor wanted to delay the bleeding until the fall
- Livestock Board meeting 05/03/06 – unanimous vote taken in support of bleeding both in spring and fall
- Situation is looked at as a test case by some of the ranchers
- If the definition of co-mingling, triggering quarantine and test, is broad enough, producers could really take a hit.
- Mr. Taylor opposes closing of winter elk feed grounds
- Livestock Board indicated that it will do whatever necessary to get Brucellosis Free Status back
- Brad Mead indicated that the mandate needs to be balanced with the impact on producers
- APHIS can withhold “Free” status – giving APHIS defacto control of wildlife in the state
- Mead hopes the rules are written in such a way that that does not happen
- Less than universal enthusiasm for deputizing federal officials to issue quarantines on Wyoming cattle herds. State Vet authorized (by Livestock Board) to deputize.
- Growing rift between everyone that has to work together
- Don’t want to see wildlife vs. Cattle producer situation develop

Dr. Oldham’s comments:

- State Vet’s office has no intention to kick people off public land
- Intention is to deal with the disease
- We’ve known for years that Brucellosis can be transmitted to cattle
- Elk in there that we know have sero-prevalence, those elk commingled, decision is to bleed
- We need to assure other states that we’re doing things right and that we’re on top of it.
- Threat of mad cow is very low, but the reality is that it holds up the market regardless – e.g. with Japan
- One other producer is bleeding, one has volunteered, Mr. Taylor is not the only one to have a commingling event.
- Would like this to be settled in the herd plans
- If we were set up on a herd plan, the agreement would prevail
- The situation will not be handled the same way again; not to say they wouldn’t have come out, but it will be handled differently
- Notice that cattle being moved out of Wyoming – ensure that any event exposing elk to cattle should be investigated fully with quarantine and testing.
- Thought about the hold-up of moving animals, and hold-up of “free” status, is very real
- Can work with producers to get this done – bleeding as recommended
- Definition of Brucellosis exposure

Application For Free Status:

- Definition of Brucellosis exposure (to cattle or bison) – UMR protocol – event with domestic cattle commingling with free ranging elk; involved an abortion event; report to State Vet; further testing determined in conjunction with the county epidemiologist
- Montana had one bull bison in herd of 400 cattle, quarantined the herd and bled them twice
- Post exposure protocol – quarantine can be flexible – work with producers; bleed cows with known exposure; quarantine comes with that, or you lose your credibility – if you come up with a “hot” cow

Discussion:

- Olsen – Deputizing federal vets, is that the right term?
- Oldham – statutes allow for state vet to deputize federal officials, and make other fed employees agents of the board – done in other states, has been done before
- People move animals out of quarantine areas – this prevents those movements.
- Cleveland – exposure policy currently in rule and reg, or moving towards?
- Oldham – not currently in rule and reg, except bison in federal rule process.
- Bousman – one of the key recommendations of this task force was development of BMAP’s – try and create a good relationship between the parties; encourage ranchers to come forward, identify the points in time when commingling may have happened, and then solve the problem; this situation highlights the disincentive for producers to come forward and identify commingling; implications of a quarantine in spring is that producers can’t turn herds out in time; better off to be depopulated, than under quarantine; producers in Sublette County can’t stand that; will cause a lack of cooperation between producers and the agencies; if caught, who will be blamed?; this situation didn’t need to happen; could have been avoided through good communication; situation is overblown, reaction is accurate
- Galey – If quarantine on, is it just until you bleed, or is it all summer?
- Oldham – if clean, then animals may be kicked out for the summer.
- Galey – as BMAP’s are developed, so will be herd plans, discretion will be given when an agreement is in place.
- Combs – quarantine never intended to be for a long time, nor just for the hell of it. Just trying to prevent spread when commingling identified. When conditions are met, quarantine lifted: could be as simple as sitting down at the table and going back through events and the conditions of the herd plans; this isn’t a situation where we’re testing every cow automatically.
- Sommers – herd management plans – commission did an admirable job outlining process to be followed; everyone had input; result was BMAP for elk and cattle herd plans, producers would have insurance that situations will be handled; how will producers decide to handle disclosure?; reluctance to bring it up if result is quarantine.
- Galey – were you told it would be an automatic quarantine?

- Sommers – no, but if his herd commingle's with another's, does everyone get quarantined? If this was going to be the policy, should have been passed through livestock board. Didn't happen in his area. Has potential in his area to ruin what we've done in this committee.
- Mead – what's the definition?
- Oldham – over 24 hours of commingling, or abortion event with sero-prevalence over 3% (?); quarantine is solution; it is in rules that state vet will take immediate action when incident with infectious disease; specific rules will make it solid = if commingling, then quarantine and bleed; as opposed to working with producers under herd plans on a case by case basis; if G&F couldn't move the elk, then state vet needed to look at them; this effort will get better under the BMAP's and the cattle herd plans – better relationships – if not, then state vet will have to test more often; that's the incentive for producers to cooperate; definition was taken from existing language; it was requested, and this is it
- Logan – you can see the frustration with the process as it's being instigated; frustrating to see where we're going; do the recommendations fit what we want?; 8 yrs ago, Tom Thorne met with state vet, APHIS, tried to figure what we could do that wasn't being handled by GYIBC; trying to develop what would become herd plans; voluntary cooperation to protect the individual interests; trying to prevent Brucellosis in a herd; so we can submit to the ostrich disease – bury our head in the sand and hope it goes away – the other states don't care about our ostrich's; let's not go 14 directions and have a big fight, or else let's just cash the whole thing in.
- Olsen – we're all frustrated, but we're not burying our heads in the sand; one of the first discussions we had was about how we need to change the way we do business; we determined that we need a new approach; where are we today? We went back to our old ways; Taylor situation – who called and said, I've got commingling; do neighbors need to be spies? That scares the heck out of me? What is the protocol to notify a producer?
- Oldham – we thought we'd work with G&F; they made it very clear that it is not G&F's responsibility; I thought it was in place, but apparently it is not. The protocol is that state vet has to drive around the state and inspect and hope to set a herd plan; what do we do in the absence of a herd plan? Ignore it? Herd plans need to be the protocol, but we can't ignore it in the meantime.
- Olsen – always been a lot of mistrust between gov't and private; G&F doing a pretty good job, but in my neck of the woods, still a lot of mistrust; the way it was handled, all the mistrust resurfaced; we all want our free status back, but we don't know the protocol.
- Oldham – the way its presented doesn't make a lot of difference; the producer is going to be put out either way; phone call, got flack; in person, got flack; it's the message that people don't like; decided that this needs be handled in a gentler way, but the message is the message;
- Galey – isn't it protocol to go and talk with the producer first?
- Oldham – yes, state vet, or Tim O'Neil or other law enforcement officer will go and talk to the producer, deliver the message.

- Olsen – officers trained to communicate this better; its always going to be bad news, but delivery makes a big difference; 3%, only GYA?
- Oldham – its 3% or less – non feedground elk are at 3% or less, thus not subject to quarantine
- Mead – Glen Taylor is well conversant in Brucellosis, and is disappointed with how it was handled; not ostrich response, but anytime there is any push-back, they lose incentive to report; got to explain the situation in detail; sovereignty is important in the state; Wyoming has to draw the line somewhere – wolf example
- Hendry – this issue has been talked about enough; Taylor’s herd needs to be bled to get status back; bigger issue is that quarantine is not a problem – Brucellosis in the cattle herd is the problem; if you think quarantine is heavy handed, wait till they come to your ranch with livestock trucks; bled his cows last year, because he didn’t want to risk it with a neighbor – Lois, you know
- Lois – I’d shoot you
- Hendry – that’s the risk.
- Madden – everybody means the best and wants this thing to work out; regardless of APHIS mandate, we’re not going to live to see Brucellosis eradicated; as long as we’re going to have livestock production in GYA, we need to learn how to deal with it; we know the cows are going to see elk; lets work it into the BMAP; we’re talking about the market, with other states, but those states don’t want the risk of infected cattle; cows from Sublette county, they want more information.
- Mead – how nervous are they if they know they’ve been bled?
- Madden – they are not nervous if they know they’ve been bled; lets get this done and let buyers in other states know – here’s our surveillance; here’s what we’ve done to mitigate the risk; we’ve done our best, knowing that there will be commingling.
- Etchepare – protocol; defining initial quarantine; all quarantine is, is stopping of movement for a set period of time; appointment made; want the flexibility; something needs to be out there outlining what will take place; we need open discussions; tie initial quarantine to a short timeframe in which you can have the conversation.
- Sommers – to Hendry – producers are well aware of the risk of getting the disease; but we finally got to a place where we can make some progress, and it got thrown in the face of producers; we’ve got good process, we need to revamp it; the harder you beat a rancher, the less he cooperates.
- Madden – what is the incubation period of Brucellosis? – you wouldn’t know anything until fall
- Kreeger – 6 weeks incubation period
- Galey – it would help for Dr. Oldham to work with Brad Mead to hammer out the protocol; probably should have scheduled two day meeting, but didn’t.

BREAK

- Oldham – The state is working with 4 or 5 other producers besides Taylor; Taylor is not the only one in the process re: commingling

Application for Free Status:

- in conjunction with G&F and Ag
- regional staff has evaluated and accepted; moved up the chain
- no deadline; don't know when we'll get it back
- Back in APHIS's hands

Galey – Bret, can you tell us when?

Combs – Can't hazard a guess; it's being watched

Hines/Olsen – legislative review

- Hines – Livestock dealer registration passed; a project looking into getting the national lab in Wyoming; Budget – appropriated over \$1m to Brucellosis, wildlife disease, \$3m towards vet services.
- Olsen – Feeding of wildlife issue didn't get to the floor; needs a lot more work to get it done right without unintended consequences.
- Hines – jump to 3:00 comments – following this morning's comments, this committee needs to get back on original road before we go back to legislature; not good for them to hear that things haven't gone well; Hines is pushing for more funding, but that is jeopardized if this group doesn't agree.
- Olsen – always be questions as to why we're spending money on Brucellosis and not other things. The legislature will continue to support if there is a unified front. Monte is optimistic.
- Galey – we'll meet again late summer, so we need to think about the sorts of things we'll be asking the legislature for.
- Williams – feeding bill was presented to joint committee and was passed unanimously approved by TRW, then “black helicopter” the bill disappeared.
- Olsen – Teton County ban – one size doesn't fit all, was looked at, but we really need to take a hard look at it.
- Sommers – I see black helicopters a lot; but that bill was problematic.

BMAP update (Cleveland/Scurlock)

- Scurlock – finalized Pinedale BMAP; all will be completed by June 2007; having final meetings on others; currently drafting some; two new BMAP biologists hired; everything is on track
- Galey – plans in place, I assume there will be a periodic review set up for each?
- Cleveland – from a practical standpoint, we'll be looking at these on a yearly basis.
- Sommers – recommends that you have at least two producer meetings; follow-up from first meeting; commingling issue needs to be addressed (nuts and bolts) at these meetings; happened in Pinedale; need to get it going a little better.
- Hendry – don't know if this is right place, but in Taylor's case, can the BMAP help address the commingling issue.
- Galey – both the cattle herd plan and BMAP should address these issues
- Hendry – is there anything that this committee can do to help producers

- Galey – we need to stick with the process; the solution to Taylor’s problem will be local; this committee can address resources; committee should see documents.
- Cleveland – has hard copies; working with the applicable agencies, can send to committee as a whole, if appropriate timelines are set; spent a lot of time creating the template; up to committee about how much involvement committee wants, or do you want to defer to Etchepare, Cleveland, Oldham, Galey and Combs?
- Galey – I can flag big ticket items, should one come up
- Bousman – start the process of good, honest feedback upfront in initial BMAP meeting
- Pollard – with Pinedale BMAP up and going, how would a commingling event be addressed?
- Oldham – BMAP is half of it, the cattle herd plan is the other half – herd plans may need to be modified on a case by case basis; each situation is different; predators pushed elk down onto Taylor’s ranch; such a thing may have to factor into a BMAP; are we talking mitigation only of this disease? Or can we be proactive as to eradication; has some concerns on some of the drafts; are these to be a laundry list of options, or are we hoping to determine a direction.
- Cleveland – that is the 800 pound gorilla; G&F has control only over test and slaughter; all other options have to be looked at in conjunction with other agencies; at this point in time, department and commission are committed to test and slaughter for 5 yrs, but not beyond; the existing BMAP’s may list test and slaughter as an option, but that doesn’t mean it will be implemented.
- Galey – important to put the options in front of people; the test and removal isn’t policy, this is an experiment.
- Sommers – I agree with Oldham; we have to address commingling; get down to brass tacks, more than I’ve seen coming out of Upper Green.
- Cleveland – I agree with you Albert; instigating anything beyond G&F authority requires coordination with all other applicable agencies; any action taking place requires cooperation; spreading elk out requires AUM’s which requires permittee and federal agency approval.
- Galey – get the ball rolling, put the options out there; we’re not asking G&F to implement beyond its authority, but just to put the options out there.
- Cleveland – we’re exploring the feasibility of all the options, but we’re not the decision makers.
- Galey – we understand that, but it will take more cooperation to get it done.
- Bousman – need to ask what is the protocol when commingling occurs? G&F doesn’t notify the State Vet, state vet needs to be at the BMAP table
- Scurlock – all the options were discussed in the producer meetings; didn’t have a very good turnout; G&F can’t act on it if producers aren’t agreeable.
- Sommers – if you have a couple meetings instead of just one, you’ll have better turnout and more involvement.

Cattle Herd Plans (Oldham/Combs):

- Galey – HP’s are the other piece; nice if you can sit the kitchen table with someone before problems arise.

- Combs – without an epidemiologist at the moment; APHIS in Cheyenne is dependent on folks from out of state when a suspect shows up at market; Dr. Henderson has been working on herd plans; 12 herd plans are completed; takes a lot of time to do these; have hundreds (approx 280) to do by June 2007; have limited resources; can't be done around a kitchen table; a number more in the draft process; start Sublette County where we had infection and work our way out; moving into Jackson/Teton County; just getting going when Taylor situation arose; Dr. Owen Henderson works on Brucellosis issues in GYA; questionnaire used to go through with ranchers; take responses to generate a general herd plan; go back out and sit down with producers, how does this look to you; comes back to Cheyenne, review process, Dr. Oldham, back to owner, everyone signs off; evaluate bi-annually to see how its going; discussed an example questionnaire; multiple visits back and forth; looking at examples from other states; redacted example available to review; optimistic that they'll hit target date.
- Mead – are there contingencies for when goals aren't met, is there a plan B, or is it just 'give your best effort.'
- Combs – specifics are avoided so as to provide flexibility; address contingencies upfront; there is a possibility that things won't work; if something goes wrong, you go back to the table.
- Williams – is part of the plan how commingling is reported? Trying to get ahead of the game; how is reporting handled?
- Henderson – we've tweaked these as we go along; plans can be amended; if commingling, then investigation and figure out what to do.
- Hendry – phone call to G&F saying we've got elk, what will G&F do?
- Cleveland – we'll get them out to the best of our ability
- Hendry – will you call the state vet?
- Cleveland – no; our wildlife duties require good working relationships with producers; we can't jeopardize that relationship; producers can call if they want, but G&F won't.
- Madden – if something goes wrong, why do we want to waste time? Lets put herd plans in place.
- Oldham – response is probably going to be, we just bled them, we'll bleed them again next year; don't foresee running in and demanding bleeding; but when abortion event is known, producer may want to bleed;
- Madden – lower risk areas are different than high risk areas; plans will be different.
- Oldham – it's going to be individualized to each plan; intention is to work with the herd plan; we're dealing with people, and as such, cooperation differs with each producer;
- Olsen – I'm impressed with having 12 plans done (laughs); herd plans incentive to get status back; those in place are in high risk areas; do all plans have to be done to get status back;
- Combs – don't have to have them all done, but just show in the process, good faith effort
- Olsen – good, honest, trustworthy working relationships so we can get things done

- Logan – Someone complained that herd plan for livestock were not worth a hoot?
- Galey – I talked with governor’s office, no more complaints, Ryan seemed to be satisfied.
- Sommers – Stomatitis outbreak took staff away from writing plans; need to address staffing and funding issues with APHIS; recommend to committee that we help ensure that plan process continues; APHIS needs to secure funding
- Galey – would the group like to see me write a letter requesting APHIS secure appropriate funding
- Combs – responded last time to procure Dr. Henderson’s services; letter should go to acting regional director; he’ll find out who it is
- Galey – will write the letter of request; will work with Bret
- Combs – does say producer should call G&F
- Williams – what about state vet?
- Sommers – going to be tough to swallow; aborted fetus is no-brainer
- Oldham – it’s a moving thing; herd plans are made with the understanding that there is commingling; importance of contacting the state vet is handled by the herd plan, hopefully; we share same concern as Terry – we’re working within the parameters we can control within our means
- Sommers – as herd plans get in place, is APHIS the responsible party for bleeding, or is that done in conjunction with state?
- Combs – some will come from APHIS, some from state appropriations; whether we do the bleeding or the state is part of the plan
- Sommers – who will step up to the plate?
- Combs – We’ve got it covered.
- Williams – 3-legged stool; if commingling occurs, and its serious, herd plan should address how the producer notifies state vet/APHIS; not G&F’s responsibility to do it
- Combs – I think it’s directly G&F’s responsibility to report; who has “ownership” over elk? G&F. With cows, its owner’s responsibility to report. Why would it be different for elk. Owner should report; for elk, that’s G&F, because they have control/jurisdiction over wildlife
- Oldham – cooperative effort, but G&F is not cooperating; only two legs of the stool are standing; if we had done this to G&F, it would be different
- Olsen – I don’t appreciate your examples; if something is in statute, all constitutional officers have a duty to report; no law against commingling
- Oldham – there is a duty to report
- Olsen – you need more staff
- Oldham – I agree, but the herd plans will probably solve this issue; to set precedent that G&F will not report is a bad one.
- Cleveland – we’re not going to agree on this; how often do you find aborted fetuses? Not very often. This isn’t an event we find every day; aborted elk fetuses on feed lines; Dr. Oldham, you can pursue any legal remedy you feel you have if you disagree.
- Oldham – the herd plans will likely solve this issue; this is a wildlife disease, we don’t have it in cattle; its our job to keep it out of cattle; we do need a bigger staff; we’re going down the wrong road; we have a responsibility to the industry;

- Cleveland – I couldn't agree with you more that we're here to solve this problem, but we're all pulled in different statutory directions and we have to operate within our parameters
- Madden – We can't report every commingling event that happens; we need to fall back on the surveillance of the herd management plans
- Mills – was this issue discussed with Taylor?
- Cleveland – deferred to Taylor
- Mills – rephrased
- Glen Taylor – we had the situation under control by the time the state vet came out
- Mills – if it weren't under control, would you still have not wanted the state vet called
- Taylor – it would have been my call
- Kreeger – if there was an aborted fetus on a feed line, we would treat this as a very serious situation and G&F would work very closely on getting the situation handled with the producer – without squealing on the producer

Scott Talbot – Test and Removal Pilot Project

- presentation given – power point available

Comments:

- Cleveland – great effort, cooperation, couldn't have done it without the support of the task force; mother of all elk traps; money left to purchase two extra traps without new legislative appropriation; may be back in two years; five year plan; thanks.
- Hendry – thanks to Terry for pulling it off; proved it can be done safely
- Mills – down the road, can you drop off the number of different tests run on each sample so as to increase the number of samples tested?
- Kreagor – Yes
- Sommers – didn't meet % of cows (wanted 80%); how will you address that next time
- Talbot – this is an experiment; we're learning as we go; we learned a lot; certain members of the herd left; we're doing the best we can; maybe a bigger trap
- Kreagor – nothing magical about 80%. Just a number
- Oldham – went very well; media coverage good
- Olsen – G&F promised to go forward to public, did that in Pinedale two days ago; how did it go?
- Cleveland – the media always treats G&F well;
- John Emerich – 20 individuals at the meeting; broad array of general questions; no controversy; no real concern about the 9 options in the recommendation report
- Galey – on behalf of the committee, thank you and congratulations.

LUNCH

USDA Wildlife Policy (Gertonson):

- power point presentation

Discussion:

- Cleveland – does the policy apply to Yellowstone, Grand Teton and Elk Refuge?
- Gertonson – I don't know. APHIS does not have authority regarding wildlife disease in National Parks. APHIS will cooperate and collaborate with the parks if the parks request APHIS assistance in regards to diseases in wildlife in the parks.
- Cleveland – does G&F have to enter into this MOU in order for Wyoming to get its status back?
- Gertonson – process in place to try to codify this policy by fall 06; the authorities regarding the policy won't be in place if Wyoming gets its status back prior to the policy becoming officially codified in the CFR
- Cleveland – does keeping the status depend on whether on Wyoming signs off on the MOU?
- Gertonson – if codified, the MOU is something they'll look at.
- Galey – are feds taking over management of infected species?
- Gertonson – states manage wildlife
- Mead – adequate mitigation measures? Closing feed grounds? Who decides what adequate mitigation measures are?
- Gertonson – depends on how this is going to be accepted by Congress and the National Park Service in regards to National Parks. APHIS does not have authority over wildlife. States manage wildlife within the states. The Parks manage wildlife within the parks. APHIS/VS will, under the policy, evaluate measures to mitigate the potential for transmission of diseases from wildlife to livestock.
- O'Toole – power grab on part of USDA? Will USDA be investing in surveillance, testing, etc ...
- Gertonson – we've shown that we'll put our money where our mouth is.
- Etchepare – This thing scares me – where is the separation? Not just about wildlife
- Roberts – different from DOI's rule on wildlife disease; 40 CFR part 24 (?)
- Williams – is Brucellosis being treated as an emergency disease? Sliding downhill from about you?
- Gertonson – it is an emergency disease
- Williams – eradication not feasible at this time; why can't we move this into category (C) until such time as Wyoming can get a grasp on it?
- Gertonson – anything is possible; USDA feels Brucellosis is eradicable.
- Kreagor – We can drive however fast we want in this state, but we're not going to get federal funding unless we capitulate
- Gertonson – we've eradicated the disease in 47 states and 2 territories
- Kreagor – this is Wyoming, feds will hold Wyoming hostage
- Cleveland – we're doing the wolf plan the same way!
- Williams – you're making us do this and pay for it.
- Gertonson – we'll collaborate with you.
- Cleveland – this won't apply to Yellowstone, Grand Teton and Elk Refuge; exemplifies that fed gov't pushes state to capitulate, but won't even address the

same problems in sister federal agencies. Feds can't work together, yet want Wyoming to capitulate

- Madden – USDA's goal to eradicate Brucellosis. Is it an achievable goal if those sister agencies don't come on line?
- Gertonson – no, but it won't stay that way. I believe that cooperation and collaboration to eradicate brucellosis from the country will come about with time.
- Possible to define what adequate mitigation measures in the CFR?
- Gertonson – yes, but you don't want to go there. It becomes a recipe which must be followed. Allowing each incident to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis will provide a means whereby the mitigation measures can be specific to the incident rather than using a one specified set of mitigation measures for all incidents. Flexibility allows tailoring of mitigation measures to best prevent transmission of diseases from wildlife to livestock.
- Hendry – will passage of this put pressure on sister agencies to come around
- Mead – proposed rule could give USDA authority in the parks?
- Gertonson – not unless invited in.
- Mead – change the law
- Gertonson – we can't set law
- Mills – can you write it so that it only goes into effect

GYIBC MOU (Ben Brandes)

- GYIBC – Wyoming agrees with the MOU as it stands
- USDA MOU – we've submitted our draft, will work with Dr. Combs, Dr. Oldham, Dir Cleveland and Director Etchepare on finalizing the language
- Where are we in the process?

Representative Olsen revisited the protocol for testing:

- Dr. Oldham – there was commingling, the elk weren't removed, we needed to bleed the herd; once herd plans are in place, we'll follow those; how do we handle these situations?
- Sommers – approaching end of commingling season; need to get herd plans in place for next season; state needs to show that we're doing something; get away from quarantine issue, solve the herd plan issue; opportunity to get something done.
- Etchepare – fairly comfortable with the questionnaire; letter going out to producers asking for questionnaire to be filled out; upon return, set up appointments; instead of quarantine, place a 10 day hold on the livestock; just change the name.
- Logan – tried to send out surveys before, and got back less than 3%. Might as well save the postage.
- Sommers – if a commingle, instigate the development of a herd plan
- Galey – good point
- Olsen – where are the other ranches located?
- Oldham – told him (Afton, Star Valley?)
- Olsen – there is a right to confront your accuser; was Taylor Ranch targeted for a reason to achieve a specific goal?

- Oldham – not the agenda of Wyoming Livestock Board and State Vet’s office; if he had received a report and not acted on it, he’d be getting questions as well. State Vet’s office must keep notifications on disease confidential. Glen Taylor has not been quarantined; administrative assistant put in Lander with some Brucellosis money to address these issues. We are working with Taylor to get his herd plan done.
- Olsen – would you be willing to sit down with Mr. Taylor in confidence and tell him what happened? Talked about deputizing – read the statute – means deputy state vet.
- Oldham – happy to talk with him about the investigation. Hesitant on the names.
- Levi Martin – questioned the confidentiality statute the state vet was referring to.
- Oldham – the discussion surrounding the statute suggests confidentiality. If he reveals the source, it will cause programs.
- Martin – what if public records request?
- Oldham – put in the request, we’ll ask the AG’s office.
- Bousman – with the herd plans developed here so far, what has the cooperation been like?
- Owen – so far it has been good; one was not so good.
- Madden – liked Etchepare’s letter suggestion; in the letter, let them know that if you chose not to cooperate, the way commingling will be handled won’t be as convenient. Tool for producer, as well as state vet.
- Oldham – that can be done

Review Recommendations (Galey):

- BMAP’s – Cleveland – we’ll be done by June 30, 2007
- Research projects at UW state lab
- Surveillance testing – rules in place
- Sommers – what was APHIS’s recommendations?
- Oldham – change of ownership in 6 county area continued; development of herd plans and surveillance done in those
- Sommers – was that it?
- Combs – direct to slaughter not required to be tested; in the 6 county area test required for change of ownership and for animals moving out of six county area; outside of 6 county area no change of ownership test required for private treaty sales, all test eligible animals to be tested at markets except animals going direct to slaughter
- Funding at state vet lab – done
- Enhancement of vet services – done
- Enhancement of vet support – letter
- Additional training in surveillance – not formal classroom training, but APHIS is coordinating with local vets about Brucellosis issues.
- Williams – kitchen table discussion might be good between vets and producers
- Oldham – put out letters about updates
- Galey – take it to next level
- Development of best vaccination procedure – vaccination of adult cows/revaccinating – entering herd plans

- Sommers – what is the abortion rate of vaccinated pregnant cows?
- Combs – very low
- Sommers – the feds won't come after us for abortions caused by vaccination?
- O'Toole – the evidence suggests that the vaccine is not a major worry for causing abortion.
- Hendry – card test at chute?
- Combs – not card testing at the chute.
- RB-51
- Compensation review program
- Hines – unconstitutional for the state to compensate an individual
- Oldham – is it possible to defer to the Livestock Board, similar to G&F funding
- Olsen – there is a way to do it; get around 16, 6 restriction
- Sommers – don't give up on this issue
- Public Health – Jamie Snow thinks the human health recommendations are pretty much done
- Brand Inspectors authorized by board to help with quarantines – Oldham on it.
- Holding frozen tissue samples for a year
- Public Communications Health plan – done
- Health care protocols – done
- Test and Slaughter
- BCT does not recommend wholesale closure of feed grounds; but closure or phasing out can be considered in the BMAP process
- Funding to G&F – going good
- Habitat Fund – Trust fund – proposals in
- Evaluation of elk herd objectives – waiting on elk/bison EIS
- Governor coordination with feds on these issues – MOU's
- Governor's participation in GYIBC
- Encourage partnerships
- Pursue elk/bison feeding legislation – not going to be a committee bill this time.
- **Subcommittee: Sommers/Pollard/Cleveland/Talbot – send suggestions to Hines/Olsen about refining feeding legislation bill**
- Recommend that the Gov convene BCT once yearly – Gov would like it to meet twice
- GNA Genotyping – hoofprints – searchable database being brought on line by the WSVL

Sommers – continue discussion of how to avoid the Taylor Ranch Situation in the future
Subcommittee to review Dr. Oldham's comments on the commingling issue/protocol between now and herd plan instigation: Galey, Bousman, Lambert, Logan, Sommers, Mead, Etchepare, Hendry, Olsen

Next Meeting – Shoot for sometime in September

Lambert – cooperation needs to improve between the agencies; livestock board members ought to attend these committee meetings

Recommendation – specifically invite the Livestock Board to the next meeting; seconded by Monte Olsen; invite the groups involved – affected

Cleveland – proposal by GYC to phase out the G.V. feedgrounds; three reasons why G&F feels that it is not feasible.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim McGagna: herd management plans – really need to get these things ironed out; producers need to know the different options they have and the consequences of each option; right of state to manage both wildlife and livestock;

Ryan Clarke – APHIS: wildlife policy – 1929; foot and mouth; question: what about the wildlife? Answer: we don't know – haven't had time to look to it. This new policy is aimed at addressing that gap. This policy is being worked out; two avenues for further input : 1) CFR = comment period (rules have been reconsidered after the comment period; and 2) USAHA . – not a black helicopter scheme to nail Wyoming – this

Governor Freudenthal stopped in at the end of the meeting: thank you to BCT for keeping up with this.

Lloyd Dorsey: attended 2 years of meetings; governor, you have appointed a great and hard-working group of people to work on this hard issue; BMAP – arrived at through collaboration with G&F, producers, WDA; we have heartburn that not inclusive enough of affected groups; herd management plans seem naturally close; like to see BMAP's more open in the future – letter to G&F; appreciate G&F's response to GYC's proposal to close G.V. feedgrounds.

Glen Taylor: Dr. Oldham and I are still communicating; letter dated 05/04/06 stating Taylor will be quarantined. Dr. Oldham had indicated he wasn't quarantined. Appreciate all the comments on his behalf.

Senator Hines: we need to continue working and planning together; the program will continue; help will be needed from the legislature; he'll advocate for it; once in a while we should bite our tongues.

Galey: those working on herd plans, use the help of the board and the suggestions.